



NEW ZEALAND AMATEUR  
ROCK 'N' ROLL ASSOCIATION INC.



# **RULE BOOK A**

## **YEAR 2011**

**FOR JUNIOR AND SENIOR NATIONAL DANCING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

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## **SECTION 1 – GENERAL**

### **GENERAL**

- 1.1 Membership to this Association is open to bona fide New Zealand based amateur Rock 'n' Roll Clubs only.
- 1.2 A club must have been established and affiliated to the Association within the financial year to qualify for the National Championships. Refer rule 10.1.
- 1.3 Alteration of Rule Book A must be implemented by a remit at an Annual General Meeting. The date for receipt of Remits is 90 days prior to the AGM. Remits must be in writing addressed to the Secretary of the Association. The final date for acceptance is to be advised by Association newsletter sent to each club. Remits taken from the floor will be at the discretion of the meeting.

### **1.4 FEES, LEVIES AND AGM**

- (a) Clubs wishing to affiliate to the Association must pay an initial application fee of \$25, an annual membership fee and annual member levies.
- (b) The membership fee is \$300 per member club per year, payable by 1st August. Of this fee \$75 is to be allocated as registration of one delegate for the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Member levy of \$2.25 per club member aged 18 years and over and \$1.10 per club member aged 5 – 17 years, is calculated at each club's balance date and payable to the Association within 30 days of that date.
- (d) The Entry Fee for a National Championship is determined by the Executive Committee each year. Entry Fees are not refundable after the closing date for entries except at the discretion of the Executive.
- (e) The host club of a National Championships is obliged to charge a levy of \$4.50 for each Saturday ticket sold and \$4.50 for each Sunday ticket sold (excluding public door sales), payable to the Association and forward such monies owing to the Association, no later than one month after the championship.

**Note:** All monies due to the Association shall incur a ten percent penalty (10%) if not paid by the due date.

### **1.5 AGM & Travel Equalisation Scheme**

- (a) Each Club currently financial and affiliated to the Association can register up to 2 delegates to attend the Association AGM.  
The fee to register a second AGM delegate is \$75.
- (b) A Club must pay and participate in the Travel Equalisation Scheme (TES) if they wish to attend the AGM. The payment is to be paid by the 1<sup>st</sup> April in the year of the AGM.
- (c) The TES cost per delegate is \$225.00
- (d) Observers may attend the AGM if their club has delegate/s registered. The AGM Fee of \$75 is payable to register an observer. Observers are not part of the TES scheme.

- (e) Clubs can send receipts for the air fares/travel expenses in relation to the Association AGM with a cheque for the balance to equal the TES contribution (or request a refund if the costs exceed the contribution). There will be no refund for Clubs who cancel within 30 days of the AGM except at the discretion of the Executive committee.
- (f) Reimbursements shall be no more than the flexi saver or equivalent air fare excluding booking/commission/insurance fees, or mileage at the current cents per km rate as listed in Book B. Any surplus will be divided equally among attending delegates and returned to their clubs.
- (g) All travel claims must be in the hands of the Association Secretary no later than seven days prior to the AGM. Any claims submitted after the seven days will not be reimbursed.

## National Championships

- 1.6 (a) The Association organises a Senior National Championship and a Junior National Championship annually.
  - (b) Only members of clubs currently financial and affiliated to the Association can compete in the competitions.
  - (c) The National Championships are voluntarily hosted by member clubs. The selection of host club is made at the Association AGM.
  - (d) The Host Club must liaise with the New Zealand Executive Committee on all aspects of hosting the National Competition including the Nationals checklist. See Book B.
- 1.7 The National Championships are held over 3 consecutive days, Friday/Saturday/Sunday. National Championship Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 14 on the Saturday and Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 13 & 15 on the Sunday. Refer rule 5.1.
- 1.8 The dividing point between the age limits for the Junior Championship and the Senior Championship is 18 yrs of age.

The age limits are:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Junior Championship year of the competition | 5 years and under 18 years as at 30 <sup>th</sup> April of the |
| Senior Championship of the competition      | 18 years and over as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October of the year   |

(a) Junior Championship Sections

|    |                      |                      |
|----|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1  | Junior               | 5 years to 9 years   |
| 2  | Intermediate         | 10 years to 13 years |
| 3  | Seniors              | 14 years to 17 years |
| 4  | -----                |                      |
| 5  | Top Club             | 5 years to 17 years  |
| 6  | Novelty              | 5 years to 17 years  |
| 7  | Triples Junior       | 5 years to 12 years  |
| 8  | Triples Intermediate | 13 years to 17 years |
| 9  | Cheerleaders         | 5 years to 17 years  |
| 10 | Restricted           | 5 years to 17 years  |
| 11 | -----                |                      |

|    |          |                     |
|----|----------|---------------------|
| 13 | Same Sex | 5 years to 17 years |
| 14 | Novice   | 5 years to 17 years |

(b) Senior Championship Sections

|    |                   |                   |
|----|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1  | Open              | 18 years and over |
| 2  | Platinum          | 30 years and over |
| 3  | Golden            | 40 years and over |
| 4  | Masters           | 50 years and over |
| 5  | Top Club          | 18 years and over |
| 6  | Novelty           | 18 years and over |
| 7  | Open Triples      | 18 years and over |
| 8  | Senior Triples    | 35 years and over |
| 9  | -----             |                   |
| 10 | Open Restricted   | 18 years and over |
| 11 | Senior Restricted | 40 years and over |
| 12 | Diamond           | 60 years and over |
| 13 | Same Sex          | 18 years and over |
| 14 | Novice            | 18 years and over |
| 15 | Senior Team       | 40 years and over |

(c) Dancing in Higher Section – Junior Championship only.

One partner of a couple in the Junior or Intermediate sections is entitled to dance up a section if, and only if, by adding two years to that person's age the competitor then fulfils the age requirements for the other partner's higher section. Likewise one or two members of a Junior Triples team can dance up a section if the third member is of Intermediate Triples age.

Note that:

- (i) The reverse cannot happen, i.e. a competitor cannot dance down a section.
- (ii) A Senior section entrant for the Junior Championship cannot thereby qualify for entry to the Senior Championship.
- (iii) A dancer who is 17 years of age whose birthday falls between 31<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> April will be able to dance at Senior Nationals prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. A birth certificate must be provided. Once having danced a Senior Nationals, a competitor cannot again dance a Junior Nationals.

- 1.9 To establish club loyalty, a person can only represent one Association club per National Championship.
- 1.10 Club/s hosting National Championships are required by the NZARRA to make a DVD of all competition categories and presentations, including all the dancing in all the heats, quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of the event to be available for purchase at a reasonable cost to associated clubs.
- 1.11 All reasonable accommodation/travel expenses pertaining to National Championships expended by official judges and scrutineers on behalf of the Association will be reimbursed by the Association.
- 1.12 Breach of any of these rules and/or instructions may render an entry invalid and/or subject to whatever ruling that the Executive Committee deem necessary in order to

protect the integrity and status of the National Championship.

- 1.13 The Executive Committee reserves to itself the right of determining the status of all competitors and Judges, and of applying the rules appearing herein and the decision of the Committee shall be final.
- 1.14 The Executive Committee will officiate at all National Competitions with a minimum of three people per day excluding the Immediate Past President and always including the Association Head Judge. No officiating Executive will participate in the competition on the day/s that they are officiating.

## **2. DRESS CODE**

- 2.1 (a) The dress code for competitors shall be traditional rock'n'roll clothing. This dress code does not apply to Sections 6 and 9 (Novelty and Cheerleaders)
- (b) The National dress code will apply to Section 13 (Same Sex) i.e. females will dress in lady's attire, males in men's attire.
- 2.2 When standing naturally, the lady's dress and petticoat must cover the knee completely, that is the crease at the back of the knee as well, inclusive of petticoats, which by definition shall be tiered, layered or frilled to enhance the fullness of the dress and must be worn whilst competing in the National Championships. The exception is Sections 10 & 11 (Restricted) where ladies have the option of wearing calf length straight skirts.
- 2.3 Competitors must also wear their competition clothing when being presented with a placement / medal / trophy in all categories.
- 2.4 (a) The dress code shall be monitored in a marshalling area by the Floor Manager(s) and the Head Judge prior to the Best Dressed competition.
- (b) Competitors must be dressed as they intend to appear on the floor for the dance competition, apart from jackets, boleros, shawls, capes, ties and neck scarves, which are optional and may be removed before dancing.
- (c) Where there is one article of clothing perceived to be two, then it will be as if it were the non removable item e.g. a waistcoat attached to a jacket could not be removed.
- 2.5 (a) The following items are not to be worn:
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Denim jeans   | Harem pants          |
| Tee-shirts  | Flared trousers      |
| Pedal pushers   | Men's shorts         |
| Bike pants  | High-heeled footwear |
| Track pants   | Wrist bands          |
| Multi-coloured running shoes                                  |                      |
| Mini length skirts or dresses                                 |                      |
| High-cut bikini pants or knickers or wide legged boxer shorts |                      |
| Aerobic tights or skirts or aerobic-style clothing            |                      |

- (b) Shoes with heels should have heels no higher than 20mm measured at the instep. The heel prints must have a minimum measurement of 40mm x 40mm. This restriction does not apply to the Sunday Best Dressed Female parade.
  - (c) A medical certificate is required for any dancer needing a wrist bandage.
- 2.6 Failure to comply with the National dress code before the commencement of the first heat in the section being competed in will result in disqualification.

### 3. Assessments

- 3.1 To ensure that the National Championships are of a high standard, competing couples/triples teams must be assessed in the section that they intend to compete in. (Refer rules 1.8 (a) and 1.8 (b)). The assessment is to be held within the 12 months preceding the National Championship concerned and have been judged by two or more New Zealand Association Judges and to take place within New Zealand.
- 3.2
- (a) Assessments may be held at your club championships.
  - (b) Clubs must hold an assessment for competing couples/triples teams or ensure that they attend an assessment.
  - (c) No competitor(s) shall be assessed from film, video or TV.
  - (d) Competitors being assessed must be financial members of an affiliated club
- 3.3 When assessments are being held whether in conjunction with club competitions/championships or otherwise the couples/triples being assessed must be notified to the Scrutineers in writing and/or on the Scrutineers/Floor Managers' programme prior to the start of the said competition/championship/assessment. Refer Rule 3.8 & 3.9 (a).
- 3.4 To enable the Executive Committee to monitor that the rules of the Association are adhered to:
- (a) The Association Head Judge must receive notification prior to any assessment taking place.
  - (b) Copies of **all** judging sheets, scrutineers sheets along with the competitors' names or a copy of the programme, are to be sent to the Head Judge within one week of the assessment (refer also to Rule 8.12) and no later than the closing date of the National Championship entries (refer rule 4.4).  
Failure to comply may render the entry invalid.
- 3.5 To ensure that assessments are fair and honest, the music is to be selected from the current NZARRA National Song List according to Rule 5.4 and without the competitors' knowledge prior to the song being announced at their assessment.
- 3.6 The National dress code must be adhered to for assessments, for example, the dress length and correct petticoat, - and monitored accordingly by the Floor Manager(s) and/or Head Judge.
- 3.7
- (a) A points system for assessment at club level is the criteria for entry into the NZARRA National Championships for both Junior and Senior competitors.
  - (b) Each competing couple/triple shall be marked out of 10 for each category – timing,

harmony and variety – for an overall maximum number of points equalling 30 for the slow song and 30 for the fast song, equalling a total of 60 points maximum per judge, per couple.

- (c) Couples will dance to one slow and then one fast song.  
Triples will dance to one slow medium and then one faster medium song.

3.8 Depending on how many judges are utilised, the total number of points will vary but the set "National Qualifying Level" will be:

Junior Championship Sections

|    |                      |     |
|----|----------------------|-----|
| 1  | Junior               | 20% |
| 2  | Intermediate         | 30% |
| 3  | Seniors              | 45% |
| 7  | Triples Junior       | 30% |
| 8  | Triples Intermediate | 35% |
| 10 | Restricted           | 30% |
| 13 | Same Sex             | 30% |

Senior Championship Sections

|    |                   |     |
|----|-------------------|-----|
| 1  | Open              | 50% |
| 2  | Platinum          | 45% |
| 3  | Golden            | 40% |
| 4  | Masters           | 35% |
| 7  | Open Triples      | 45% |
| 8  | Senior Triples    | 40% |
| 10 | Open Restricted   | 45% |
| 11 | Senior Restricted | 40% |
| 12 | Diamond           | 35% |
| 13 | Same Sex          | 40% |

of the total points available from all Association Judges used.

- (a) Any couple/triple having achieved National Qualifying Level points as per rule 3.8 shall be entitled to compete at the National Championships in the section for which they have passed assessment.
- (b) Assessment is not required for Sections 5 (Top Club), 6 (Novelty), 9 (Cheerleaders), 14 (Novice) and 15 (Senior Team).

3.10 Dancing partnerships having failed to pass their initial assessment may seek further assessments in that or another section in the year of the competition as listed below and prior to the closing date for entries.

- "Year" in the case of the Junior Championship means Easter to Easter.
- "Year" in the case of the Senior Championship means Labour Weekend to Labour Weekend.
- Easter and Labour Weekend are deemed to be over at midnight on the last day of competition.  
(This relates only to assessment.)

- 3.11 If a dancing partnership has passed assessment in any of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 or 12, that partnership or either individual may seek further assessment in any of those sections, invalidating any previous assessment in those sections.
- 3.11(a) If a dancing partnership has passed assessment in any of triples sections 7 or 8 that partnership or any individual may seek further assessment in either of those sections, invalidating any previous assessment in those sections.
- 3.12 All National Association and Association Judges invited to officially judge club championships where assessments are being held must be utilised on the assessment. National Association and Association Judges that armchair the club championships will not be utilised on the assessment. Officiating Judges do not need to be made aware of whom they are assessing.
- 3.13 Judges should not officiate at assessments if they have close personal or family ties or have coached competitors.

#### **4. ENTRIES/ENTRY FORMS**

- 4.1 Entries must be made on the form supplied by the Association and every entry must be accompanied by the total entry fee.
- 4.2 Entry forms show:
- iii) The section names and the age limits for the sections.
  - ii) The names, addresses and club affiliations of all competitors.
  - iii) Every competitor's date of birth.

Any competitor whose age may be questioned shall produce a birth certificate if required at the time of entry or subsequently.

Any forms must be typed or printed for clarity and must be signed by all competitors or guardians to verify correctness.

Novelty entry forms will state the requirements that the act be of a standard suitable for family viewing but do not have to be signed by the competitors.

Note: entry forms are not required for the Best Dressed competitions.

- 4.3 The age of an entrant is taken to be:
- for Junior Championships, their age as at 30<sup>th</sup> April of the year of the competition
  - for Senior Championships their age as at 31<sup>st</sup> October of the year of the competition
- Refer to Rule 1.8 (c.) for exceptions.

- 4.4 The closing date for all entries (including Novelty) is:
- Junior Championship 31<sup>st</sup> January
  - Senior Championship 31<sup>st</sup> August

- 4.5 Entries received will be receipted and acknowledged by the Association Secretary within one calendar month of closing date.

- 4.6 Any entries posted after closing date without prior arrangement with the Association Secretary shall be null and void.
- 4.7 By applying to the Association to compete in the National Championship, the entrant thereby accepts the rules and instructions laid down by the Association for the championship.
- 4.8 The receiving of any entry in good faith by the Association does not imply acceptance by the Association for regularity or compliance with the conditions relative to such entry, which is at the risk of the entrant.
- 4.9 In general, the Executive Committee shall decide on any questions of eligibility or otherwise arising out of the conditions and may in any case accept or decline any entry.
- 4.10 Minimum number of competitors
- (a) There are two criteria governing the minimum numbers required for sanctioning a competition in any section. If both of these criteria are not met, then the Executive Committee may postpone or cancel the competition in the section concerned. If the number of accepted entries falls below the minimum stated, the competition may be postponed or cancelled. However in the interest of protecting the 'Mana' of the National Championship as a whole, the Executive Committee may reopen entries to all clubs in that section.

The criteria (per section) are:

- (i) Acceptance of entries from three (3) or more clubs.
- (ii) The following minimum number of dancers as listed in the following tables:
- (b) Minimum number of club entries to hold a competition.

Senior Championship

|    |                   |           |
|----|-------------------|-----------|
| 1  | Open              | 3 couples |
| 2  | Platinum          | 3 couples |
| 3  | Golden            | 3 couples |
| 4  | Masters           | 3 couples |
| 5  | Top Club          | 3 teams   |
| 6  | Novelty           | 3 entries |
| 7  | Open Triples      | 3 teams   |
| 8  | Senior Triples    | 3 teams   |
| 9  | -----             |           |
| 10 | Open Restricted   | 3 couples |
| 11 | Senior Restricted | 3 couples |
| 12 | Diamond           | 3 couples |
| 13 | Same Sex          | 3 couples |
| 14 | Novice            | 3 couples |
| 15 | Senior Teams      | 3 Teams   |

Junior Championship

|   |              |           |
|---|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | Junior       | 3 couples |
| 2 | Intermediate | 3 couples |
| 3 | Senior       | 3 couples |
| 4 | -----        |           |

|    |                      |           |
|----|----------------------|-----------|
| 5  | Top Club             | 3 teams   |
| 6  | Novelty              | 3 entries |
| 7  | Junior Triples       | 3 teams   |
| 8  | Intermediate Triples | 3 teams   |
| 9  | Cheerleaders         | 3 teams   |
| 10 | Restricted           | 3 couples |
| 11 | -----                |           |
| 12 | -----                |           |
| 13 | Same Sex             | 3 couples |
| 14 | Novice               | 3 couples |

- 4.11 The maximum number of entries for each club in Section
- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 (Top Club) is: 1 team,    | 6 (Novelty) is: 1 entry     |
| 9 (Cheerleaders) is: 1 team | 15 (Senior Team) is: 1 team |

- 4.12 (a) An entrant or competitor can only enter one section of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12 in the National Championships.
- (b) An entrant or competitor in Section 14 (Novice) cannot compete in any other section except 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 or 15 (Top Club, Novelty, Triples, Same Sex, Cheerleaders & Senior Team).

## **5. COMPETITION PROCESS**

- 5.1 (a) The timetable for the competition will be set by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Host Club. The Senior Championships and the Junior Championships shall start on a Saturday.
- (b) Where the number of entries in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 exceeds four couples or four triples, then the finalists will be determined through the process of heats, quarter finals and semi finals, depending on the number of entries. The Executive Committee will make the decision as to whether or not there are sufficient entries in a section to warrant quarter finals and may, if deemed necessary, hold three semi finals instead of the usual two before progression to the finals.
- (c) Provided Rule 4.10 is adhered to, a semi final will be danced in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 irrespective of the number of competitors entered.
- (d) Note that when the Executive Committee selects the competitors for the heats the only criteria used is an endeavour to try to have as many different clubs represented in each heat as is possible. Other than that the competitors are selected on a random basis (numbers and names are 'drawn out of a hat') and hence it is possible that the eventual finalists may all be in the same heat together.
- 5.2 The highest scoring competitors from each stage progress to the next stage of the championship.
- 5.3 (a) Championship places will be awarded for 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st in the finals except for sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 15, which will be awarded for 3rd, 2nd and 1st. They are to be announced in the following order: 3rd, 2nd, 1<sup>st</sup> and 4th.
- (b) When a couple or triples combination reaches the final but are not placed, they are to be acknowledged with a finalist medal for the section they danced in.
- 5.4 (a) Competitors in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 are required to dance to 1

slow and then 1 fast song/instrumental in each stage of the competition. Competitors in Sections 7 and 8 (Triples) will dance to one slow medium and then one faster medium song/instrumental in each stage of the competition.

- (b) The songs/instrumentals are to be original recording and artist (or most known version) selected by the Executive Committee from the National Play List.
- (c) The National Play List consists of agreed songs recorded between the years of 1953 and 1964 inclusive. The songs for the list will be a minimum of 1 minute 45 seconds and a maximum of 3 minutes in length.

Slow songs will be from 110 bpm to 136 bpm inclusive

Medium songs will be from 137 bpm to 156 bpm inclusive

Fast songs will be from 157 bpm to 185 bpm inclusive

- (d) The music for national Competitions selected for each dancing section should be of similar length and tempo within that sections heats, quarters or semi finals.

- 5.5 An optional best dressed parade will be held on Saturday prior to the particular section of competition for Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12, and on Sunday prior to competition 5, 7, 8, 13 and 15 and prior to Section 14. Seven official Judges will judge these parades.
- 5.6 Competitors in Section 5 (Top Club) & Section 15 (Senior Team) dance to a song selected by the Executive Committee from the National Play List. The song and artist shall be notified to clubs by the Association no less than 3 months prior to the championships.
- 5.7 Competitors in Section 6 (Novelty) dance/perform a floorshow/item fit for family viewing of their own choice or design of a duration of no longer than four (4) minutes - such time to include entry/exit from the competition floor, inclusive of property set up. While fun and humour is important, points will be awarded for the presentation and entertainment value of the item.
- 5.8 Competitors in Section 9 (Cheerleaders) shall perform cheers and chants with accompanying music if desired, no longer than 3 minutes duration, the timing to start from the first chant or the start of the music till the last competitor leaves the competition floor. No club participation from the sidelines is permitted.
- 5.9 Order of performance. Competitors shall make themselves acquainted with the hour set down in the programme for the judging of each section and shall be ready to take the competition floor at least ten minutes before such hour or otherwise as provided.
  - (a) The competitor's names appear in the programme in the order in which they will compete. Except with permission under special circumstances, competitors not ready when called upon shall forfeit their right to compete.
  - (b) Any entrant not ready to appear in the order shown on the programme shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.
- 5.11 Any competitor having taken the competition floor can be disqualified if they leave the competition floor before being instructed to do so by the floor manager. This rule does not apply to Section 6 (Novelty) and Section 9 (Cheerleaders).

- 5.12 When competitors are called back into the quarter finals, semi-finals, and finals the competitor numbers should be called at random.
- 5.13 The scrutineers sheets will not be on view at the completion of the competition. The Judges decisions are final and no correspondence shall be entered into. Copies of the judging sheets and scrutineer sheets will be made available for purchase from the Association Secretary.

## **6. JUDGING SYSTEM**

**6.1 HEATS** - In the heats two judges are allocated to judge each section, i.e.

2 judges are allocated to judge - Timing

2 judges are allocated to judge - Harmony

2 judges are allocated to judge - Variety

**6.2 QUARTER FINALS & SEMI-FINALS** -- In the quarter finals and semi finals two judges are allocated to judge each section, but in order to have some balance in the judging, they are allocated to judge a different section from that allocated in the heats,

i.e.\*\*\* EXAMPLE ONLY \*\*\*

2 judges on Timing may now judge Harmony

2 judges on Harmony may now judge Variety

2 judges on Variety may now judge Timing

**6.3 POINTS SYSTEM**

The heats, quarter finals and semi finals are judged on a points system from 0-10 points. Each Judge marks each song (1 slower, 1 faster). With six Judges and two songs the maximum that can be scored is 120 points, in each instance.

The highest scoring competitors proceed to the next round of the competitions, and if necessary a dance off will take place to resolve any tied placing.

**"PLEASE NOTE"**: This points system is similar to but different from the points system used for National qualifying.

Competitors should note:

The points system has been introduced to permit entrants to assess what aspects of their dance can be improved upon at the next competition so that they may have a better chance of reaching the finals.

**6.3.1** (a) In Section 10 and 11 (Restricted) if a Judge sights an illegal move as per 11.5.1 then that Judge will give the couple an "X" for that song regardless of which categories they are judging, (Timing, Harmony and/or Variety).

Note: While this will severely penalize a couple, they are not disqualified and could progress to the next round if enough points are earned in the other, non transgressing, song.

- (b) Restricted Section Final: If two or more judges sight an illegal move as per 11.5.1 in the same song and therefore give an "X" for that song, the scrutineers give the placing, for that song only, of double the number of competitors in the final, therefore ensuring a last place.
- (c) If only one judge sights an illegal move as per 11.5.1 and therefore gives an 'X' for that song, the scrutineers give the placing, for that song and that judge only, of the number of competitors in the final.

#### **6.4 FINALS**

- (a) The finals are judged by 7 Judges.
- (b) The two songs are judged separately as in the heats, quarter-finals and semi-finals.
- (c) The three categories (Timing, Harmony and Variety) are judged together and not separately as in the heats, quarter and semi-finals.
- (d) Points are not awarded; each Judge places the competitors from first to last place. Thus the placings are determined by the Scrutineers and if tied a dance off would result.

6.4.1 Judge/s can request that the competitors in the final of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14 dance to one extra song. If a third song is called for, the dance in question will be re-danced by the competitors to a new slow/slow medium or fast/faster medium song or instrumental. This will be at the Floor Manager/s instruction prior to the next section of the competition. Only the Judge/s calling for the third song will judge, all other Judges will armchair.

#### **6.5 TIED POSITIONS**

A dance-off will be held to resolve tied positions only where necessary. Competitors in tied positions are eligible to proceed to the next stage of competition up to and including the final, with a maximum number of six couples or 3 triples teams in any quarterfinal, semi-final or final.

6.5.1 A dance-off will consist of one song/instrumental being medium. Only tied competitors/teams will be called on to the competition floor. Competitors/teams will be judged as for finals.

#### **6.6 JUDGES**

A minimum of six Judges are appointed to judge each National Championship section - e.g. Platinum, Top Club, etc. Depending on the number of Judges that may be available, a Judge may be appointed to one or more or all championship sections. As part of a Judge's training, the Head Judge may invite armchair Judges to participate, however their sheets must be of another colour to that used for the competition Judges.

6.6.1 If the Head Judge is involved in judging the competition, a Floor Manager should be appointed for the purpose of checking the Judges sheets before they are handed to the Scrutineers.

6.6.2 A specified area can be set aside for armchair Judges at National Championships. All armchair Judges shall have a clear view but shall not be permitted in any way to

obstruct the view or hinder the performance of official Judges.

#### **6.7 SCRUTINEERS**

Scrutineers as appointed by the Executive Committee shall collate the results of the individual judges judging sheets and determine placings at all stages of the competition.

### **7. CONDUCT AND OBLIGATIONS**

Please take note of Rules 1.9, 1.12 and 1.13

#### **7.1 JUDGES & SCRUTINEERS - OFF LIMITS TO COMPETITORS**

No competitor, his or her club, his or her parent, or other interested party shall communicate with the Judges or Scrutineers on the subject of the competitor immediately prior to or during the competition.

#### **7.2 COMPETITORS - OFF LIMITS TO JUDGES**

No Judge shall communicate with competitors on any subject immediately prior to or during the competition.

7.3 During the competition process the stage area and equipment is out of bounds to all except the MC, DJ(s) and Floor Manager(s) or person(s) approved by the Floor Manager(s).

7.4 It is illegal for any competitor to receive audible or visual coaching from the sidelines whilst on the competition floor. Such conduct could result in the competitors being disqualified and/or the coach/s being removed from the venue.

7.5 Any club or parent in charge of any competitor(s) shall be responsible for the general good conduct and decorum of such competitors and shall observe the instructions of the Floor Manager, an Executive Committee member, or other official acting under the Floor Manager's direction. Refer Rule 5.7 - Section 6 (Novelty) competitors' requirement that such entry be of a standard suitable for family viewing.

7.6 By entering Section 6 (Novelty), a club automatically accepts full financial liability for any cost associated with damage caused by their entry.

7.7 In the case of a team, or other entry involving a group of two or more competitors, where they have appointed a representative to be in charge of the group, that person shall be deemed to have accepted these rules and instructions on behalf of such group.

#### **7.8 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Any complaints must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee by a club and will be tabled at the next Executive Committee meeting.

#### **7.9 PROPERTIES**

No properties of any description will be permitted in any event. However properties are permitted in Section 6 (Novelty) providing not more than 1 entrant is on the competition floor at a time. Substances such as powder, liquids, or anything which may affect the surface of the competition floor to the detriment of other competitors shall not be used as properties.

- 7.9.1 Section 9 (Cheerleaders) are permitted to use only pom-poms as properties.
- 7.10 The Floor Manager(s) shall ensure that the music or recording for all events is present prior to the commencement of the competition, but it shall be the responsibility of the competitors to ensure that if their own recording is used for Sections 6 (Novelty) and 9 (Cheerleaders), it is set up correctly ready to commence.

## **8. JUDGES**

Any National Association, Association, or Trainee Judge must be a current financial member of an Affiliated Club and must act in a professional manner and have a responsibility to the Association. Their conduct should always be beyond reproach when representing the Association.

- 8.1 Any National Association, Association, or Trainee Judge must maintain the judging standard required such standards to be determined by the Executive Committee.
- 8.2 All National Association, Association or Trainee Judges must be supplied with the current New Zealand Amateur Rock'n'Roll Association Inc. Rule Book and must comply with the rules and any amendments relating to them.
- 8.3 Any Judge having accepted the invitation to judge at the forthcoming National Championships, must declare to the Head Judge any conflict of interest including coaching a couple in that National Championship. Where it is not possible for the Head Judge to use said Judge in an armchair capacity for that section, they must cease coaching immediately or withdraw from judging. Judges must also advise the Head Judge of any close personal or immediate family relations that may be competing in that Championship
- 8.3 (a) All officiating Judges are to receive a copy of the scrutineers sheets after a National Championship.
- 8.4 A Judge having accepted an invitation to judge at a forthcoming Nationals must attend a judging workshop immediately prior to that Nationals, i.e. February/March in the case of Juniors and August/September in the case of Seniors, with the exception of special circumstances agreed to by the Head Judge.
- 8.5 Any written complaints or non-compliance of these rules will be investigated by the Executive Committee. If the nature of the complaints is likely to lead to the dismissal of a Judge, a panel will be convened as soon as practicable to consider such allegations. The panel will consist of the Head Judge and four senior National Association Judges selected by their peers i.e. fellow Judges, but representing the three regions.
- 8.6 Following an investigation with the person or persons concerned the panel will make their recommendations to the Executive Committee within seven days. The Executive Committee will notify those concerned, in writing, of the outcome within a further seven days.
- 8.7 Any Judge failing to attend the compulsory 1 workshop per year, with the exception of special circumstances agreed to by the Head Judge, will be required to seek re-nomination from their club and will need to attend a judges' workshop to be re-instated to the List. The Judge will then commence his/her judging criteria as per rule 8.10 again.

- 8.8 A Judge finding that his/her name has been removed from the register of Judges, for other than disciplinary reasons, be given the right to have their name reinstated provided they meet the relevant criteria, this to be determined by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Judges panel according to the status of the Judge concerned.

## **8.9 TRAINING JUDGES CRITERIA**

### **Before being accepted onto the Trainee Judges List, an applicant must:**

- a) Have attained the age of 18 years.
- b) Be nominated by their club, in writing, to the Head Judge of the NZARRA.
- c) Complete and return to the Head Judge an introductory questionnaire attesting to their Rock'n'Roll experience and commitment.
- d) Have their application considered and accepted by the Executive Committee.
- e) Upon being accepted onto the Trainee Judges List, they can then begin the criteria as per Rule 8.10 to qualify as an Association Judge.
- f) All Trainee Judges must attend a minimum of one judging workshop per calendar year thereafter.

### **8.10 The criteria to qualify as an Association Judge is as follows and must be completed in the following order.**

- 1) Armchair judge a minimum of six competitions, all using the NZARRA rules, judging guidelines, Association appointed Judges and using the points system.
- 2) Officially judge a minimum of four competitions all using the NZARRA rules, judging guidelines and Association appointed Judges.
- 3) Sit and pass an examination set by the Head Judge.
- 4) Addition to the official register of Association Judges will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 5) All Association Judges must attend a minimum of one judging workshop per calendar year.

### **8.11 The criteria to qualify and remain as a National Association Judge is as follows:**

- 1) To have qualified as an Association Judge.
- 2) Armchair judge a minimum of two National Championships, a Junior and Senior.
- 3) Addition to the official register of National Association Judges will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- 4) All National Association Judges must attend a minimum of one judging workshop per calendar year
- 5) Be available to judge a minimum of one Nationals Competition per calendar

year.

- 6) All National Association Judges must judge or armchair at least one club competition or equivalent event/competition each year. Any National Association Judge failing to do this, with the exception of special circumstances agreed to by the Head Judge, will be removed to Association Judge Level.

8.12 To assist with the evaluation of Judges, copies of **all** judges and scrutineers sheets and a competition programme are to be sent to the Head Judge within one week of the said competition whether assessments have taken place or not.

## **9. CHALLENGE CUPS AND TROPHIES**

9.1 All cups and trophies donated for competitions or as special prizes become the property of the Association on acceptance by the Association, and stay as specified and must be donated from affiliated clubs only and not individuals. To ensure that the trophies are of an acceptable quality and likeness to the existing trophies, the Executive Committee shall purchase the said trophies and charge the donating clubs accordingly.

9.2 The Association maintains a register of cups and trophies handed out. All competition winners must sign the register.

- (a) The cups and trophies, being the property of the Association are held by the winner(s) for the remainder of each competition year only, and must be returned to the Association not later than 1 month prior to the next championship in a clean and polished state.
- (b) Engraving of these trophies is at the cost of the recipients/clubs.
- (c) Recipients' clubs will be charged \$35.00 per trophy for each trophy returned later than one month prior to the next championship.
- (d) Clubs will be informed of the person to whom the trophies are to be sent.

9.3 Cups and trophies will be awarded on the day of the championship and will be the responsibility of the recipients' clubs for return or replacement.

9.4 All cups and trophies will be decided on a placing basis.

9.5 In recognition of having won an event for 3 consecutive years a miniature non-returnable trophy is to be given to each member of a couple or triples team, or to the club in Sections 5 (Top Club), 6 (Novelty), 9 (Cheerleaders), 15 (Senior Teams)

9.6 Two types of trophies are supplied to place-getters in the championships, returnable and non-returnable.

- (a) Non-returnable: Each place-getter in Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15 and only one of each place-getting team in Section 6 receive an engraved place medal and ribbon. The best dressed male and female place-getters on Sunday evening also receive an engraved place medal and ribbon.
- (b) Returnable: Each section has one trophy or cup for the winner(s). In addition to the dancing trophies and cups (including Section 6) there are 3 trophies, one each, for

best dressed male and female for Sunday evening and Most Supportive Club.

## **10. DEFINITIONS**

- 10.1 Financial Year: The Association financial year is 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December inclusive.
- 10.2 The Executive Council - refer to the Constitution.
- 10.3 The Executive Committee - refer to the Constitution.
- 10.4 Club/Society: A Rock'n'Roll club.
- 10.5 Amateur. The definition of amateur as it relates to this Association means that the dancers do not receive money or cash prizes for competing in our competitions and our Executive Officers and Judges are all voluntary positions.
- 10.6 (a) A Couple is defined as 1 male and 1 female dancer
- (b) A Same Sex couple is defined as 2 male or 2 female dancers
- (c) A Novice couple is defined as 1 male and 1 female dancer both of whom have never competed at any National competition, excluding Sections 6 & 9, (Novelty and Cheerleaders). Refer Rule 4.12 (b).
- 10.7 Competitor means a person, being an accepted entrant for the championship.
- 10.8 An entry/entrant is defined as 1 couple or 1 team as appropriate to the championship section entered.
- 10.9 A Top Club team is made up of three couples.
- 10.10 A Senior Team is made up of three couples, all of whom are 40 years and over.
- 10.11 A Triple team is defined as one male and two female dancers.
- 10.12 A Cheerleaders team will consist of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 competitors.
- 10.13 A Judge is a person who according to their level of experience and knowledge of the judging systems and rules in place for judging all rock and roll competitions will either be a:
- Level One - Trainee Judge - A person training to be a judge who is a member of a club affiliated to the Association who fulfils the requirements of Rule 8.9 (a - f) and has been nominated by their club and accepted by the Executive Committee to commence training.
- Level Two - Association Judge - An Association Judge is a Trainee Judge who has qualified by completing Rule 8.10 (1 - 5) and therefore capable of judging all competitions and assessments, except the National Championships.
- Level Three - National Association Judge – A National Association Judge is an Association Judge who has further completed the criteria and Rule 8.11 (1 - 5) and therefore capable of judging all competitions, assessments and the National Championships.

- 10.14 A Scrutineer of National Dance competitions shall be a person who has completed and passed the prescribed course of instruction and subsequent examinations prescribed by the New Zealand Amateur Rock 'n' Roll Association or the New Zealand Society of Scrutineers and/or the Southern Scrutineers Association.
- 10.14.1 At least one of the Scrutineers of the National competitions will have to be a qualified current member of either the New Zealand Society of Scrutineers and/or the Southern Scrutineers Society.
- 10.15 Scrutineers Sheets - are the tabulations from collating the information received from the judges sheets, and are used to determine which competitors progress to the next stage, and the placings in the final.
- 10.16 Floor Manager(s) are appointed by or from within the Executive Committee to supervise the running of the competition programme.
- 10.17 Runners shall be appointed by the Executive Committee in conjunction with the Host Club to collect judges sheets etc. and deliver them to the Floor Manager or Head Judge.
- 10.18 Competition floor is defined as the area confined within the judges' podiums or as otherwise clearly marked.
- 10.19 Calendar year is from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **11. JUDGING DEFINITIONS**

Also refer to the Judges Guidelines in Book B

- 11.1 The competitors' dancing ability is judged in the following categories:
- (a) Timing
  - (b) Harmony
  - (c) Variety
- 11.2 Timing is defined as partners dancing in time with the music and one another.
- 11.3 Harmony is defined as partners complementing one another in a dance routine to the music.
- 11.4 Variety is defined as a dance routine with a spread of different moves.
- 11.5 An inappropriate move in Rock 'n' Roll, Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15 is any move that:
- (a) Is done more than two arm lengths apart, such move(s) breaking the continuity of the dance.  
In Section 5 (Top Club) and Section 15 (Senior Team) events; each partner of a couple must stay within two arm lengths of each other excluding entry and exit. However each couple in the team should be evenly spaced but not necessarily two arm lengths from another couple
  - (b) Is one where physical contact is lost between the partners whilst one is above the

head of the other/s when standing in an upright position.

- 11.5.1 In Section 10 and 11 only (Restricted), an illegal move is one where one person in the couple takes the weight of the other person while that person is not in contact with the floor.

**\*\*Example\*\***

**When either one of the partnership would be unable to execute the move/jump alone.**

- 11.6 Interference with other dancers on the competition floor. Points will be deducted if a couple or triples team are seen to cause interference to another couple/team, while on the dance floor.

**Please also refer to the following:**

- The Constitution
- Book B - Administration
- The Minutes of Annual General Meetings.
- Your Club committee and/or club delegates who have attended Annual General Meetings of the Association.
- The Association Secretary:

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